

Claims

1 (currently amended): A clamp for securing to a pipe or flowline for mounting buoyancy thereon, the clamp comprising:

- i) a clamp body having surfaces against which buoyancy may abut,
- ii) a strap disposed entirely around the exterior of the clamp body means for urging the clamp body towards the pipe, and
- iii) a radially acting spring capable of expanding or contracting along the radial direction to take up changes in dimension of the pipe from a nominal dimension while maintaining a clamping force upon the pipe.

2 (currently amended): A clamp as claimed in claim 1 wherein the radially acting spring lies intermediate the strap means for urging the clamp towards the pipe and the clamp body.

3 (previously submitted): A clamp as claimed in claim 1 wherein the radially acting spring comprises a polymeric material.

4 (original): A clamp as claimed in claim 3 wherein the polymeric material comprises compounded natural or synthetic rubber.

5 (canceled)

6 (original): A clamp as claimed in claim 1 wherein the clamp body comprises a fibre reinforced plastics material.

7 (original): A clamp as claimed in claim 6 wherein the fibre reinforced plastics material comprises a thermosetting resin comprising epoxy, polyester, vinyl ester or mixtures thereof reinforced by fibres of one or more of glass, carbon or metal.

8 (currently amended): A clamp as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means for urging the clamp body toward the pipe said strap comprises titanium or Kevlar (poly-paraphenylene terephthalamide).

9(canceled)

10 (canceled)

11(canceled)

12 (previously submitted): A clamp as claimed in claim 1 wherein the radially acting spring comprises a plurality of arcuate resilient leaves disposed along an interior surface of said clamp.

13 (new): A clamp according to claim 1 wherein said spring is disposed inboard of the clamp body.

14 (new): A method of mounting buoyancy on a pipe comprising the steps of:

a) mounting about a pipe a clamp comprising:

i) a clamp body having surfaces against which buoyancy may abut,

ii) a strap extending completely around the exterior of the clamp body
and

iii) a radially acting spring capable of expanding or contracting to conform to changes in diameter of the pipe,

the method further comprising:

b) tightening the strap for urging the clamp body towards the pipe, and

c) mounting buoyancy on the clamp body.

15(new): A method according to claim 14 including disposing said spring inboard of the clamp body.

16.(new): A method according to claim 14 in including disposing said spring outboard of the clamp body.